

## AUTUMN 2011 NEWSLETTER

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Autumn 2011

Dear Club de Vin Member,

Warmest greetings from Château Fonplegade. As we sit down to write this letter, there is energy and excitement in the air as harvest approaches. There is no other time like harvest—the vineyard is more alive and vibrant than ever, and the winery is bustling with activity as our team prepares to receive the literal fruits of their labor.

After a hot late spring and early summer, the weather in July and August cooled down, giving the grapes some much-needed respite. Even so, at this point in the 2011 season, we estimate we are still approximately one week ahead of an average year. The fruit turned from green to purple-red at the end of July, and by early August we couldn't resist tasting the grapes, which were deliciously sweet!

Though they work very closely together throughout the year, harvest marks a turning point, as our gifted vineyard manager Eloi passes the baton to Franck, our winemaker—entrusting the care of the season's finest grapes to his capable hands. More will be written about the 2011 vintage in future newsletters, but for now let us turn our attention to the 2009 vintage, which we bottled in July.

Many of you who reserved the highly anticipated 2009 vintage as futures, will have received your wines by the time this letter arrives. By almost any estimation, 2009 was a spectacular vintage, both here in Saint-Emilion, and across Bordeaux. We are proud to share these wines with you and look forward to your feedback.

On the subject of futures, the early response to our 2010 Futures offering has been phenomenal. If you haven't reserved your allocation, and would like to, we recommend doing so soon. Though these wines are still patiently ageing in barrel, they are already profoundly promising... Renowned critic Robert Parker gave Château Fonplegade 2010 our highest rating ever with 92-94/100. Mr. Alex Lалlos, Senior Fine Wine Specialist at JJ Buckley - USA has confirmed this assessment with his own 92-94/100 rating, saying:

"2010 Fonplegade (St Emilion) - 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet franc, 5% Cabernet sauvignon. Approximately the same blend as 2008 and 2009. Stunning aromas of dark red fruit, mocha and chocolate. The palate displays loads of chocolate and black fruit, as well as velvety tannins and a remarkable brightness. This is a super clean wine with tons on minerality, and the finish is long and filled with notes of allspice, cinnamon, and espresso. Stunner! 92-94 points —Alex Lалlos"

Here is your official En Primeur offer. As is always the case, these futures prices are significantly below the prices upon official release, when the wines are bottled in 2012:

- 12 bottles of Château Fonplegade 2010 at 468€
- 12 bottles of Château l'Enclos 2010 at 366€

To reserve your wines, simply send us an email at [chateaufonplegade@fonplegade.fr](mailto:chateaufonplegade@fonplegade.fr) with the quantities that you would like and we'll arrange reservation after charging your card with the wine amount and the shipping cost. Please note deliveries will start in September 2012.

Our debut vintage of Rosé was a great success and sold out in France well before August! Fortunately, we have some remaining bottles available for our U.S. customers. Thank you to everyone for supporting our new Rosé!

Finally, we are very pleased to announce your September Club de Vin selections: our Château Fonplegade 2006 and Fleur de Fonplegade 2006. Each of these wines tells the story of a year in our vineyard's history—and yet each is unique. As our flagship wine, Château Fonplegade is the ultimate expression of our terroir. It is also a wine of impeccable balance, bringing together the finest attributes of our vineyard to create a complex and complete experience of Saint-Emilion winemaking. As Château Fonplegade's precocious younger sibling, Fleur de Fonplegade offers a vibrant expression of our vineyard, highlighting lush, generous fruit, velvety tannins and elegant length. In the vineyard, we focus on somewhat more youthful plantings grown in sandy soils to create this fresh and enticing wine.

NEW: Please do not forget to turn over your winemaker notes to find two special recipes from the chef here at Fonplegade to pair with your consignment.

Warm regards,

Fonplegade Club de Vin Team  
Bordeaux, France